

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Jeffrey J. Darcy
Serial No.: 10/676,831
Confirmation No.: 3775
Filed: October 1, 2003
For: METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DISTRIBUTING A LOGICAL
VOLUME OF STORAGE FOR SHARED ACCESS BY MULTIPLE
HOST COMPUTERS
Examiner: P. M. Bataille
Art Unit: 2186

COMMENTS ON STATEMENTS OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Mail Stop Issue Fee
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

The Notice of Allowance mailed October 29, 2007 includes an Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance that states, "Applicant's arguments cover the reasons for allowance, as none of the prior of record teaches or suggests: exporting at least a portion of the volume of storage from the root host computer to the at least one child host computer so that the at least one child host computer and the root host computer share access to the volume of storage."

Applicant's understanding of the statement that "Applicant's arguments cover the reasons for allowance," is that the Examiner agrees with the argument in Applicant's response mailed July 19, 2007, that each independent claim distinguishes over the prior art of record based, at least in part, on a limitation that relates, in one way or another, to the concept of a host computer exporting at least a portion of a logical volume to another host computer.

The Statement for Reasons for Allowance also quotes a limitation that appears in only some of the claims, i.e., "exporting at least a portion of the volume of storage from the root host computer to the at least one child host computer so that the at least one child host computer and the root host computer share access to the volume of storage." Applicant assumes that this limitation is quoted merely as an example of the language used in some of the claims to capture

the concept of a host computer exporting at least a portion of the logical volume to another host computer, and that the Examiner recognizes that other claims capture a similar concept using different language. Thus, Applicant would like to make clear for the record that each of the independent claims patentably distinguishes over the prior art of record based solely upon the language in the claim itself, and not based on language in any of the other claims or that recited in the Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

If the Examiner disagrees with any of the foregoing he is respectfully requested to contact the undersigned at the number listed below to discuss how the record can be made clear.

Dated: November 29, 2007

Respectfully submitted,

By /Scott J. Gerwin/
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